

THE DAILY EXAMINER. MARCH 18, 1884.

Potato Starch.

It is, of course, well known to our readers that a Bill has been introduced into the United States Congress to reduce the present redundant tariff. Mr. Morrison, who introduced the Bill, made it short and comprehensive, the reduction being on a sliding scale of twenty per cent, but it appears that through the amendments made in Committee of the whole, that the reduction will only average fifteen per cent. Ever since Mr. Morrison announced his measure, every interest which would be affected by the reduction, has appeared in Washington, by delegation, and has either protested against any change in the present tariff, or begged for a suggested amendment to the proposed enactment. Among these delegations was a strong one from Maine, backed up by several prominent persons from other States, protesting emphatically against the proposition of the Morrison bill to put on the free list dextrine, burnt starch, gum substitute, and British gum, all of which are preparations from potato starch. They stated that there are some twenty-eight potato starch factories in Aroostook County, Maine, with a capacity for consuming about two millions of bushels of potatoes, and producing about eight thousand tons of starch, or sufficient to supply the ordinary demands of the United States. The factories, the delegation said, afford a home market to the farmers at twenty-five cents per bushel just as they are dug. A fair yield is one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty bushels per acre, worth at the factory \$30 to \$40. Abolition or reduction of the duty would, it was maintained, close every factory and destroy a market that is one of the chief dependencies of the farmers of Aroostook County. They further said that in Prince Edward Island potatoes sell for twelve to fourteen cents per bushel, and starch sells for two and a-half cents per pound. Dextrine, says the Washington correspondent of the Boston Journal, is potato starch dried until the weight is reduced one-third, but the duty on it is only one cent, while the duty on the crude starch is two cents, so that three pounds of starch reduced to two pounds of dextrine, pays but two cents duty, while the crude starch would pay six cents. Burnt starch is only a little more dried than the crude article.

Since the protest of this Maine delegation, the Morrison Bill has been reported to Congress, and the prospect is that it will pass the House of Representatives. It is believed, however, that it cannot pass the Senate, as the Republicans have a majority of one in that body, and it is possible that some of the Southern Democratic Senators will vote against the Bill, as it attacks some of the Southern manufacturing interests. If the Bill does pass the Senate, it is thought probable that President Arthur will veto it, and a tremendous pressure will be brought to induce him to do so. In any event, perhaps the fact that dextrine, under the present tariff, only pays one cent a pound duty, may be of interest to our factories, as they may be able to turn the crude article into dextrine at a nominal cost.

The Public Expenditures.

In reply to a point raised by Sir Richard Cartwright, respecting our increasing expenditures, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries said: "I have never yet heard the hon. gentleman make a financial speech, but he has gone back to 1867, and pointed out that the expenditure which was then \$13,000,000 has run up to \$23,000,000, \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000. Is it a crime that the country grows and prospers and requires more expenditure, and that we are able to meet it without inordinate taxation? Why, the hon. gentleman would have the country warped and standing still, with an expenditure of \$13,000,000. If the hon. gentleman had been born in China he would have been famous as one of those men who cultivate dwarf vegetable trees. He would not have this country grow. To use an American expression, if the hon. gentleman had been born a polywog, he would not have become a frog, except for the satisfaction of being better able to croak over the ills and misfortunes of other people. I need not elaborate this question of the expenditure of the country. If the hon. gentleman will come down to millions, if he will point out to the House, wherein large unnecessary expenditures have been made, then it will be in place to discuss the subject. But with the growing prosperity of this country, with the improvements that have been made, with the demands that have been made on the Public Treasury, in consequence of the undertakings entered into during the hon. gentleman's administration, we have also the fact that the country has been prosperous, and that all these expenditures have been met from the increased revenue, without taxing inordinately the people. Before I pass away from this, let me refer to just one point. The hon. gentleman wanted to alarm the country by saying we were taxed nearly double per head as compared with the people of the United States. The hon. gentleman did not stop to explain that in the gross amount which is taken as the taxation of this country there was included none of the revenues from Public Works, Railways

and Canals, while in the United States there are no such items entering into the taxation. Moreover, the hon. gentleman forgot to tell the House, and we suppose it was entire forgetfulness on his part, that the taxation in the United States with which he made the comparison does not include the State taxation, while the taxation here in Canada includes the Provincial taxation, all the Provincial revenues coming from the Federal Government and being a part of that taxation. In the United States, every State, to a large extent, produces its own revenue and taxes its own people for those revenues. The total State taxation in the United States, independent of the Federal taxation and the large sum collected through Customs and Excise is \$52,019,959; for State and county purposes \$69,606,571; for divisions less than counties, \$180,740,000, or a total of \$302,200,694, or \$6 per head; while the indebtedness of the States is proportionately large. So that, if the hon. gentleman had wished to make a correct comparison he would have omitted from the Canadian taxation the several sums I have named, or added to that of the United States the taxation that was devoted to State purposes."

PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE.

OTTAWA, March 12.

The House has been for some days engaged in considering "Ways and Means." To obtain sufficient revenue by means of duties on imports, and give our own people as many incidental advantages in our own home markets as we can; or to obtain sufficient revenue and give our own people as few advantages in our own markets as we can—that was the question. The changes in the tariff are intended to give greater incidental advantages than they now possess to a few infant industries which have been established; and they were opposed, on the old ground that it is better not to have the industries at all than to be obliged to pay an enhanced price for the products of those industries. One of the industries involved is the steel manufacturing lately established at New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, in the midst of our coal and iron deposits. It was argued that this very important industry can as well be prosecuted in Canada as in any other country; and that, once established, competitors in the business will produce and sell steel at lower prices than those at which the same quantities of imported steel can be obtained here. The argument was supported by evidence drawn from a "long time ago," from "far and near," and from the present experience of every consumer in Canada. Everyone knows that goods in ordinary use are not so dear as they were when we began giving some special incidental advantages to those engaged in making them in this large country; and, in illustration of the cause of this fact, Mr. Wigle exhibited in the House, yesterday afternoon, several products of our own factories—a felt hat, a yard of cotton, and a piece of cloth. Here is his illustration of

THE PIECE OF CLOTH.

"I had occasion to go to a factory in West Kent and ask: 'I want a part of a yard of my heaviest cloth.' There is a piece of cloth I got (holding it up). It has a pound of wool in it, and I paid fifty cents a yard for it. It costs thirty cents to manufacture it. Now, I would like to know where is the fifty per cent. paid on that piece of cloth. I will promise the hon. gentleman that if he or any of his supporters behind him—and there are a lot of merchants there—can stand up and show the House that there is fifty per cent. of duty paid on this kind of cloth, I will leave this side of the House and go and support the hon. gentleman. Well, I explained this at a meeting in West Kent. After I got through, an old French gentleman came up to me and said: 'Do you see that cloth in these pants?' slapping his hand on his leg. 'My sheep grows that, my wife spins it, and my girl weaves it, and I would like to know how I pay 50 per cent. on that.' All these things are done in West Kent, the wool comes in free of duty, and I would like these hon. gentlemen to show me how there is a cent of duty paid on it. But it is just like the case of the hat. A poor man goes into a store, and he sees different kinds of cloth there at from sixty cents a yard to a dollar or a dollar and twenty-five cents, all manufactured in Canada, but if he must have Scotch goods or goods imported from other countries, then he pays the twenty-three per cent. the hon. gentleman spoke of. So that it is the rich man that pays twenty-three per cent. and the poor man does not pay anything at all."

This is putting it in a strong light. But, after all, it is the old well-known story over again; and it will please and profit your readers better to hear what's being done by

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE.

These Committees, by the way, are a capital institution. Members of Parliament are, as a rule, very intelligent men, and know a good deal about everything in general. But, with few exceptions, they are particularly well up in some particular branch with which Parliament must deal. One has given particular attention to Railways, another to education, and another to the temperance question; one knows all about the Northwest, and another is cognizant what is going on in the older Provinces; Dr. Egan looks after the fish, and Mr. Gigault gives special attention to the farm. The Committees are usually struck with special reference to aptitudes; and a large proportion of the members of each Committee are thus warmly interested in, and familiar with, the special work which each Committee has to do. The Committees meet every forenoon in rooms set apart for the purpose, and enquire into the subjects within their purview. In doing this they call as witnesses specialists, whom they examine and cross-examine. Thus they obtain the latest and best information relating to the question they are to deal with, are enabled to bring to bear upon it, light from many different points of view, and are the more likely to come to a right decision in the premises.

Mr. Gigault's Committee have had before them a number of "specialists" in the various branches of agriculture, for the purpose of finding out what the Federal Government had better do about it.

PROVINCIAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

To-day the evidence of Mr. A. Blue, Secretary of the Bureau of Industries of Ontario, was obtained. The Bureau has its headquarters in the City of Toronto. Its duty is to obtain and distribute accurate

statistics of the agricultural and other industries of the Province. It has between seven and eight hundred correspondents who furnish it with statements as to the conditions and circumstances of industries in their respective localities. It also furnishes each farmer in the Province with a schedule to be filled up, and returned. The following are some of the questions:—  
Number of acres in farm, .....  
Number of acres cleared, .....  
Acres in spring wheat, .....  
Acres in barley, .....  
Acres in oats, .....  
Acres in buckwheat, .....  
Acres in field beans, .....  
Acres in hay and clover, .....  
Acres in potatoes, .....  
Acres in mongold-wurtzels, .....  
Acres in carrots, .....  
Acres in turnips, .....  
Horses, .....  
Thoroughbred cattle, .....  
Grade and native cattle, .....  
Sheep, .....  
Pigs, .....  
Poultry, .....  
Wool, .....  
Bushels of old wheat on hand, .....  
Pounds of butter made last year, .....  
Rods of underdrain completed on farm, .....  
Value of farm property, .....  
Rent value of farms per acre, .....  
Wages of farm hands, .....  
Wages of servant girls, per week, .....

The schedule is accompanied with a circular in which the objects of the Bureau are explained, and in which the farmer is assured that the return will be known only to the Bureau and will be treated as strictly confidential information. It is also explained that the main object of the Bureau is to benefit the farmers themselves, by collating and publishing useful facts about farms and farm-work, crops, live stock, etc. This benefit is represented to be chiefly twofold, as follows:—

(1) By knowing whether there is a likelihood of abundance or scarcity of crops or stock, farmers have a good guide to prices. It often happens, for instance, that some kinds of crops are excellent in one part of the country, and a failure in another part. Much depends on the rainfall, on local storms and droughts, and on weather effects generally. So, too, with the supply of fat and store animals. Farmers may have large numbers on hand, or they may have none to sell. Dealers know pretty well the state of the country in these respects, for it is part of their business to keep posted and they have correspondents to supply them promptly with information. And so informed they may, and often do, buy up the surplus grain, fruit, roots or live stock, of a neighborhood before farmers know that there is either scarcity or abundance elsewhere to have any effect on prices. The Bureau, in collecting such information from all parts of the country and publishing it in special Reports and through the newspapers, enables farmers to judge for themselves as to the course of prices, instead of selling or holding on in the dark.

(2) By comparing results in their own and other countries farmers are better able to judge of the value of their property, and less likely to part with it too cheaply in the hope of getting richer lands and making fortunes elsewhere.

Last year, three special reports of the Ontario Bureau were issued; and the value of the information thus distributed has been recognized and appreciated. The Bureau was established and is maintained by the Provincial Government at a cost of about \$8,000 a year; and Mr. Blue thinks industrial statistics, to be useful, must be collected by each Province, though a Central Bureau, in affiliation with the Provincial Bureaus, would, in his opinion, be beneficial to the whole country.

CULTIVATION OF SORGHUM.

Yesterday Mr. Doherty, of Ottawa, gave some interesting information to the Committee respecting sorghum. Three or four years ago he became interested in sorghum, and started a small factory on the halves principle, with very satisfactory results to the farmers and to himself. He obtained a product of about one hundred and twenty gallons of syrup per acre, worth in the market about seventy cents per gallon. In the United States, he says, sorghum has been cultivated with great success. Occasionally, there is a bad year; but the farmers engaged in sorghum culture report that on the average it pays better than any other crop. Sorghum will succeed where Indian corn succeeds; indeed it is a rather hardier plant. The early amber is the best variety. It grows under favorable circumstances to a height of twelve feet; but its average height is eight feet. The yield of sorghum seed is from twenty to thirty bushels per acre; and the feeding properties of the seed are fully as good as those of corn. In Mr. Doherty's opinion, the best way to carry on the business is by means of factories, worked on the same principle as creameries and cheese factories. In some years, sorghum is destroyed by early frost; but there is a large part of Canada in which it can be grown at a gross profit of forty dollars per acre. The yield of syrup is from 100 to 200 gallons per acre; and the sugar is of fine quality and excellent taste when properly made. In the neighboring Republic, the respective States in which sorghum is grown, offer a bonus of a dollar a ton on all sorghum grown, and a cent a pound on the sugar manufactured; and in the opinion of Mr. Doherty their example should be followed here. A sorghum factory, he says, could be established, on a good basis, with the best machinery for \$10,000. The seed should be planted about the 15th of May.

THE PROHIBITION RESOLUTION.

Mr. Foster rose to make a personal explanation, yesterday, and said: "I desire to say a word on a question of privilege. I find in an issue of the Chicago Inter Ocean, a copy of which I hold in my hand, the following special telegram:—

OTTAWA, Ont., March 5th.

"A resolution to test the members views on prohibition, was brought up in the House tonight by Prof. Foster of New Brunswick. He gave a lengthy speech, so it was impossible to reach a vote, much to the disgust of the temperance people, and the motion was therefore put at the foot of the order paper, which makes doubtful its coming up again this Session. It is stated openly that Foster arranged to do this with the Government, as the Ministers were in a quandary how to act, with the prohibitionists on one side, and the licensed victuallers on the other."

I had the curiosity, after receiving this from a very earnest and warm friend asking what I meant by such action, to look through the files of the newspapers in the reading room, and I found the majority probably of the papers belonging, I am

bound to say, to one political party alone, represented either that I was ordered by the Government, or asked by the Government, or of my own will and purpose did deliberately engage to talk out and kill the resolution. Now, sir, I wish simply to state this: the manner and the matter of my speech are legitimate subjects for criticism but my motives I hold are my own property, and I have a right to explain them to the House. With respect to these statements I may say that as regards fact and intention they are absolutely without foundation; they are utterly, entirely and completely false.

MR. BLAKE'S REPUTATION.

A few days ago, Mr. Blake stated that he had nothing whatever to do with the Toronto Globe's article headed "Is it a Crisis," in which a coalition of the Blues of Quebec and the Opposition is suggested, on condition that the Blues should vote against the Railway Resolutions and the Opposition should yield the Better Terms demanded by Quebec.

The Entertainment Last Night.

The Market Hall was never so crowded as it was last night, when every seat was filled and every inch of standing room occupied. Sale of tickets had to be discontinued before eight o'clock, and hundreds of people went away unadmitted. The hall was tastefully and prettily decorated with bunting, spruce, and National devices, which made the room cheerful, although it must have done some injury to the sound of voices and instruments. Our readers have seen in our recent issues how varied was the programme prepared; it was rendered well from first to last. We are sorry we cannot spare space for extended mention of each performer, but we think the audience proved good judges as to what was best by their accolades of Mrs. Strickland, Prof. Caven and Mr. Reid. Mrs. Strickland sang two Irish songs with the usual taste and sweetness which has made her such a favorite among us. We were delighted to hear Prof. Caven's rich, matured voice after a prolonged silence; Mr. Reid always secures a deserved good hearing. We must not neglect to compliment Mr. Hermann upon his solo, sung with taste in the rich voice he is the happy possessor of. The excellent choir of the cathedral furnished four choruses, of which we liked the "Last Rose of Summer" best. The voices blended sweetly and were well balanced. In "Domestic Scenes" we had an amusing and very pretty chorus promulgating wholesome views upon young ladies' expenditure. Mr. Fletcher played a cornet solo, and Mr. Vinnecombe, for a violin solo, Gounod's delightful "Ave Maria," supported by a string quartette. The Misses Quirk played a brilliant galop, and the Orchestral Club played three selections with marked improvement. Mr. F. J. Conroy, in his address, dwelt upon the Irishman's greatest characteristic—his love compounded of the several features of attachment to his mother country, devotion to her National Church, and loving reverence for her clergy. He portrayed the Irish endurance of suffering, and paid an elegant tribute to the memory of America's orator, Wendell Phillips. Mr. Conroy urged toleration of various creeds and peaceful citizenship and loyalty as suggested by the characteristics of Irish character. Before "God Save the Queen" was sung, Father Carroll, in a happy and eloquent address congratulated the Irish Catholics upon their worthy carriage throughout the celebration, their large and devout attendance in the Sanctuary at the celebration of Mass, their orderly appearance in procession, and their liberal patronage of the Concert, honored by the presence of our venerable Bishop. The Rev. Gentleman proved conclusively to the satisfaction of every Irishman that the discovery of America is the rightful claim of the Sons of Erin, as proved by the fact that long before Columbus landed in America, some Indians were found in Long Island speaking with a sweet touch of the brogue. Father Carroll expressed the hope that before he should leave this Parish he might see Irish Catholics worshipping in a Cathedral worthy of their name and creed. The Concert was a grand success financially, about \$350 having been realized.

Ch'town, Feb. 22, 1884.

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF ENGLAND.

ESTABLISHED A. D. 1836. Invested Funds, \$30,632,000; of which ONE MILLION DOLLARS is invested in Canada.

General Reserve and Fire Re-insurance Fund, SEVEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

This Company will now do a general business in the City and Province. Risks taken daily by

R. R. FITZGERALD, AGENT.

Ch'town, March 10, 1884—cod

DESBRISAY & ANGUS, AGENTS OF THE

QUEEN AND AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COMPANIES,

While thanking the Citizens of Charlottetown for their past patronage, and assistance during the late fire, have to announce that they have taken the office in

Stevenson's Building,

CORNER QUEEN AND SYDNEY STREETS,

Where they are prepared to do business.

Ch'town, Feb. 22, 1884.

W. & A. BROWN & CO.

—HAVE—

RESUMED BUSINESS

FOR THE PRESENT, IN THE

Store formerly occupied by H. A. Harvie,

QUEEN STREET,

NEARLY OPPOSITE WATSON'S DRUG STORE.

Ch'town, March 6, 1884.—dy wkly

GREAT SALE OF New Cottons.

We have just opened a large Stock of

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PRINTS, NEW SPRING STYLES,

Received Before the Advance in Duty,

We have an immense stock of

GREY AND WHITE COTTONS,

Purchased when the Cotton market was at the lowest point of depression.

Fleecy Cottons, Sheeting Cottons, Pillow Cottons,

TABLE LINEN AND NAPKINS,

Towels and Towelling,

TAPESTRY, SCOTCH AND BRUSSELS CARPETS,

And other House Furnishing Goods.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,

CHOICE TEAS, VERY CHEAP!

By the Chest, Half-Chest, and Quarter-Chest. Also, in Packages of 5, 10, 15 and 20 pounds.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

Ch'town, Feb. 11, 1884.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

A Steamer Wanted on the Capes Route.

(By Telegram.)

CAPE TORMENTINE, March 18. SIR,—Boats crossed and returned yesterday. A steamer could have effected a crossing each way with very little difficulty. Wind northwest and stormy. No chance for boats to dry, but a steamer's chance is good.

ICE HUMMOCK.

Our Advertisers.

E. Palmer, Jr., publishes a statement of the Equitable Life Insurance Company, of which he is the agent for this Island.

Father Carroll thanks the ladies and gentlemen who contributed towards making the concert last evening a grand success.

F. L. Hazard calls a special meeting of the Law Society in the Law Library, on the 26th inst., at eleven o'clock.

Card of Thanks.

FATHER CARROLL thanks the ladies and gentlemen who took part in last evening's concert. He especially wishes to thank the Orchestral Club, whose masterly and tasteful execution was one of the best features of the entertainment.

The Palace, March, 18, 1884.

The Law Society.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Members of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island will be held at the Law Library, in Charlottetown, on Wednesday next, the twenty-sixth day of March, instant, at the hour of eleven o'clock a. m. to take into consideration certain necessary amendments, required to be made in the laws at the present session of the Legislature.

By order. F. L. HAZARD, Secretary.

Ch'town, March 13, 1884.